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THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
Washington 25, D. C.

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By	MMK NLDDE Date 10/27/10

C O P Y

15 August 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Subject: U. S. Bases in Morocco (U).

1. Reference is made to a memorandum by the Deputy Secretary of Defense, dated 5 August 1958, subject as above.
2. The Joint Chiefs of Staff consider that from the military viewpoint it is not in the interest of the United States to evacuate all U. S. military forces and equipment from bases in Morocco. The change in concept of operation of the Strategic Air Command wherein greater reliance is being placed upon mounting strikes from bases in the Western Hemisphere, the recent completion of an air base complex in Spain and the development of Naval facilities in Spain have served to reduce somewhat the strategic importance of the Moroccan base complex.
3. However, Moroccan bases provide important post-strike airfields for the recovery and relaunch of SAC combat aircraft operating from other bases such as those in the Continental United States.
4. Moroccan bases provide potential positions from which to mount operations in the event of limited war in the area.
5. The Navy Communication Facility at Port Lyautey is an installation of major importance which includes vital point to point relay, primary fleet and general broadcasting facilities necessary to meet requirements of the Sixth Fleet and CINCNELM and for necessary communications to the Mediterranean and Middle East. A large communications security group activity is also included in this facility. There is no existing substitute for this facility in the area, although one has been tentatively proposed for establishment in Spain some years hence, depending upon arrangements yet to be agreed.
6. Fixed installations in the nearby Spanish Moroccan area are required for necessary subsurface and surface detection equipment for surveillance of the Straits of Gibraltar against submarine and surface transit.

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7. U. S. bases in Morocco represent a foot-hold in Africa constituting strategic advantage over the USSR which the U. S. should seek to retain. Furthermore, the United States should seek to maintain base rights in Morocco which are free from restrictions on introduction or storage of munitions and emergency launch authority.

8. Accordingly, the Joint Chiefs of Staff wish to reaffirm their previous recommendations which stated that the United States should:

"Maintain base rights in Morocco by all feasible means, being prepared, if necessary, to offer reasonable quid pro quos therefor."

9. Since the intelligence contained in SNIE 71-58 indicates a situation which is not conducive to reaching base rights agreements which are favorable to the United States, the Joint Chiefs of Staff consider that the United States should at once examine its position vis-a-vis the Government of Morocco with a view toward determining what actions must be taken to prevent the loss of U. S. base rights in Morocco.

10. The Joint Chiefs of Staff note that the U. S. Air Force has declared Boulhaut Air Force Base excess to its needs and has approached the Department of Defense with a view to its disposal. The Joint Chiefs of Staff recommend that this action be held in abeyance pending clarification of the Moroccan base rights negotiations.

For the Joint Chiefs of Staff:

SIGNED

N. F. TWINING,  
Chairman,  
Joint Chiefs of Staff.